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**Current Terrorist
Threat Condition**

No Active Alerts

NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – April 2015

This monthly newsletter is published to increase NASA personnel awareness of significant current issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI POC located on the last page.

Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:

ISIS SIGNALS TUNISIAN PRESENCE WITH BARDO MUSEUM ATTACK

A militant Islamist attack in Tunis on 18 March 2015 that killed at least 20 foreigners represents a major inflection point in a country where terrorist attacks are rare.

<http://www.criticalthreats.org/west-africa/ferris-bardo-museum-attack-march-20-2015>



TERROR TRIUMVERATE: ISIS, AL QAEDA, BOKO HARAM TRAINING TOGETHER IN MAURITANIA



The world's three most infamous terrorist organizations are working together at Al-Qaeda-run training camps in the Sahara Desert in Mauritania, where dozens of recruits from the U.S., Canada and Europe are being indoctrinated into violent jihad and training for attacks that could expand the so-called caliphate across West Africa.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/03/24/terror-triumvirate-isis-al-qaeda-boko-haram-training-together-in-mauritania/>

Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

US BUSTS RUSSIAN SPY RING, CHARGES THREE WITH ESPIONAGE

Authorities in the United States have charged three Russian citizens, two of them diplomats, with operating a New York-based spy ring on orders from Moscow. The FBI eventually uncovered that the two were in fact employees of the SVR, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service.

<http://intelnews.org/2015/01/27/11611/>



THE INSIDE STORY OF IRAN'S STEALTH JET THIEF



Before Mozaffar Khazae's arrest, he had access to high-tech military hardware through his jobs with leading defense contractors. The work he did in the engineering field showed a technical acumen missing from his foray into espionage.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/03/03/the-inside-story-of-iran-s-stealth-jet-thief.html>



Significant Cyber Issues:

RUSSIA TOPS LIST OF NATION-STATE CYBER THREATS AGAINST U.S.

The U.S. has elevated its appraisal of the cyber threat from Russia, the U.S. intelligence chief said recently, as he delivered the annual assessment by intelligence agencies of the top dangers facing the country.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-tops-list-of-nation-state-cyber-threats-against-u-s/>



CIA CHIEF: TERRORISM MORPHING INTO DIFFERENT THREATS



Terrorism is morphing into different types of threats, including cyber-attacks that can impact nations across the globe, the director of central intelligence said in New York last week. John Brennan told the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) that terror attacks in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia show the terror threat is changing.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128373>

Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

The reports of the imminent demise of ISIS are greatly exaggerated. ISIS continues its significant expansion in Syria and in some areas of Iraq. ISIS “affiliates” in the Middle East and Africa are slowly growing in numbers and influence, as shown by recent attacks in Yemen and Tunisia. The latest ISIS threat towards targeting U.S. service personnel in the United States shows how media savvy ISIS has become. Widespread espionage continues, with many nations attempting to bolster their economies and militaries by stealing U.S. technology in multiple ways, from cyber-attacks, to using agents posing as students or employees. With cyber-attacks becoming common, more threat information is becoming available; including admission from the Chinese that they have created special “Blue Army” units to conduct cyber attack’s and espionage. Recent attacks on banking industry mainframes and utility companies computer control systems shows that the threat posed by cyber-attacks is growing exponentially. The NASA CI/CT division will continue to monitor these threats and any others that emerge in the future that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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